

1 Here's the Idea

▶ A subject pronoun is used as the subject of a sentence or as a predicate pronoun after a linking verb.

Subject Pronouns	
Singular	Plural
I	we
you	you
he, she, it	they

Pronouns as Subjects

Use a subject pronoun when the pronoun is a subject or part of a compound subject.

The Apollo program was a great success.

It got us to the moon. (*It*, referring to *The Apollo program*, is the subject of the sentence.)

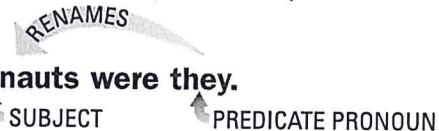
A pronoun can be part of a compound subject.

You and I both think we should go on to Mars.

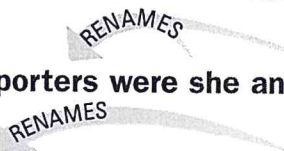
Predicate Pronouns

A predicate pronoun follows a linking verb and identifies the subject. Use the subject case for predicate pronouns.

The greatest astronauts were they.



The biggest supporters were she and I.



The first astronaut on Mars will be I.

Remember, the most common linking verbs are forms of the verb *be* and include *is, am, are, was, were, been, has been, have been, can be, will be, could be, and should be*.

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▶ **An object pronoun is used as a direct object, an indirect object, or an object of a preposition.**

Object Pronouns	
Singular	Plural
me	us
you	you
him, her, it	them

Direct Object The pronoun receives the action of a verb and answers the question *whom* or *what*.

SCARE WHOM?
Bad storms scare me.
DIRECT OBJECT

Do you like them? (like what? *them*)

Indirect Object The pronoun tells to whom or what or for whom or what an action is performed.

TO WHOM? DIRECT OBJECT
Give me an explanation of how hurricanes form.
INDIRECT OBJECT

I told him the story of Hurricane Floyd.

Object of a Preposition The pronoun follows a preposition (such as *to*, *from*, *for*, *against*, *by*, or *about*).

When he sees big storms, he runs from them.
PREPOSITION OBJECT

The storm is coming straight at us.

Always use object pronouns after the preposition *between*.

It's a contest between him and me. (NOT between he and I.)

1 Here's the Idea

▶ **A possessive pronoun is a personal pronoun used to show ownership or relationship.**

Possessive Pronouns	
Singular	Plural
my, mine	our, ours
your, yours	your, yours
her, hers, his, its	their, theirs

The possessive pronouns *my, your, her, his, our,* and *their* come before nouns.

OWNERSHIP

The dog pricked up its little ears.

OWNERSHIP

It saw the boy and heard his loud cry for help.

RELATIONSHIP

The owner and his best friend came to the rescue.

The possessive pronouns *mine, ours, yours, his, hers,* and *theirs* can stand alone in a sentence.

This cat is mine. That cat is his.

Is the striped cat yours? No, mine is all black.

What color is his? Hers hasn't come home yet.

Possessive Pronouns and Contractions

Some possessive pronouns sound like contractions (*its/it's, your/you're, their/they're*). Because these pairs sound alike, writers often confuse possessive pronouns and contractions.

Remember, a possessive pronoun *never* uses an apostrophe. A contraction, however, *always* uses an apostrophe. The apostrophe shows where a letter or letters have been left out after combining two words. Look on the next page to see how this works.